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Hal Verb

More On LIFE And JFK Death

(Last week's front page story on Life's alterations of the Kennedy Assassination issue was written by BARB reporter Hal Verg. BARB inadvertently omitted his name. We're sorry.)

Verb has this footnote to add to the story:

Life's reply to the Berkeley student who discovered the five altered versions of Life (Oct. 2, 1964) admitted to only one change. And on this one change they gave as an excuse that Life had erred by giving an "inaccurate impression of the manner in which Lee Oswald was finally apprehended."

Life knew better than this, for it was aware of the substitution of one photo for another showing Kennedy being struck by a bullet. This certainly had absolutely nothing to do with Oswald's "apprehension" and Life knew it!

But Life's duplicity extends far beyond the eleven typescript changes and the substitution of one photo for another. In that same issue of Life on page 41 a photo is published showing an FBI re-enactment of the assassination from the sixth floor window of the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building, from where Oswald was allegedly firing.

In typical fashion Life demonstrated the same incapacity to deal with the facts as it did in handling its five different printed issues.

First, the reconstruction was made with the window entirely open. (photos taken by photographers just before and just after the assassination and submitted as evidence by the Warren Commission itself showed the window half open).

Then, the picture shows the ballistics expert resting his arm on a box incorrectly positioned. Lastly, the rifle used is without a telescopic sight, yet Life's caption reads that the FBI man used the "killer's rifle." According to the Commission Oswald's rifle was equipped with a telescopic sight.

The magazine published a front page doctored photo of Oswald with a rifle on Feb. 21, 1964. It admitted the photo was doctored in a letter to the Warren Commission, reprinted in one of the Commission's volumes. This photo, more than any other piece of "evidence" helped establish firmly in the public's mind the guilt of Oswald.

It was noted in last week's BARB that Life is now calling for a reopening of the Warren Commission.